

Annual Report of M.O.H.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1925.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EAST KERRIER.

Gentlemen,

The annual Report for 1925 is to be a "Survey" Report, in which the measure of progress, and the extent and character of any changes that may have been made in the public health services during the past five years, as well as other matters, should be dealt with. The Circular issued by the Ministry of Health states that this Report should contain, as a minimum, information on matters specified in an appendix to that Circular, and in the order therein given. In a note the Ministry says that the size and scope of the Report may properly vary with the character of the area, and that the elaborate details in a Report upon a large town, will not be necessary for a Report upon a small Rural District such as this.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres).	24319.
Population (census 1921).	8070.
Population (estimated 1925).	8455.
Number of inhabited houses (1921).	2073.
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) :-	
Practically all separate families.	
Rateable Value.	£34,480.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£143.

PHYSICAL FEATURES, GENERAL CHARACTER AND SOCIAL CONDITION.

The district is essentially a rural one, containing no town within its borders. It comprises seven parishes, each with one or more villages of greater or less importance; but even between each village one cannot go any distance without encountering a house or group of houses. Thus it will be seen that although there are few villages of any size, the proportion of houses per acre is not a low one for a rural district.

The most striking feature of the district is its extreme hilliness. In the hills of at least three of the parishes the granite industry gives employment to a large number of men. Apart from this industry the district is mainly agricultural : the individual farms are not large, a considerable proportion being devoted to dairy farming. In those parishes which touch the sea or estuaries, oyster dredging and fishing are the predominating occupations. The remainder of the population find employment in market gardening, local laundries, factories &c, whilst a great many work at the Falmouth Docks. The climate of this district is mild, the vegetation in some parts being semi-tropical, and although the rainfall may be in excess of the average of England, we have a more than average amount of sunshine.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
	Legitimate.	56.	66.	127.	
<u>Births.</u>	Illegitimate.	3.	2.		<u>Birth-rate 15.02</u>
<u>Deaths.</u>		43.	52.	95.	<u>Death-rate 11.23</u>

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth.

From sepsis. nil.

From other causes. nil.

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate.	6.	1.

Illegitimate.	--	--
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Infantile death-rate per thousand births. 55.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals. There are no hospitals of any kind within, or belonging to, the District. For Tuberculosis the Sanatorium at Tehidy is available, as also the hospitals at Truro, Redruth and Falmouth for general purposes.

Ambulance Facilities. There is no ambulance in the District, but ambulances can be obtained from Truro, Redruth and Falmouth.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

For Tuberculosis :- one at Truro, and one at Tuckingmill.

For Venereal Diseases :- one at Tuckingmill.

All are provided by the County Council.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health : part time.

Sanitary Inspector : whole time.

Contribution made to salaries of both.

Summary of Nursing Arrangements.

Practically for each parish of the District there is a nurse. Nursing Associations deal with each parish, providing nurses for the same. The several Nursing Associations, with one exception, are affiliated with the County Nursing Association, and the work of each nurse is subject to inspection by that Association. The nurses are supported by subscriptions from the several parishes, assisted by grants from the County Council.

Midwives. There are six nurses, and each is a certified midwife.

Legislation in Force. There are no bye-laws in the District, except for New Buildings.

The Public Health Act (1880) was adopted in that year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of this district is exceptionally good, meeting the wants of the inhabitants generally, and within easy reach as a rule. In Budock, that portion of the parish adjoining Penryn, as well as the similar portion of the parish of St Gluvias, the supply is mainly derived from the mains of the Falmouth Waterworks Company, and is constant.

This Company also supplies a large number of houses which have of late years been built at other points of the parish of Budock, viz Glasney Terrace, the Tregenver Estate houses, Swanvale &c. The water supplied is regularly analysed, and the Analyst's report is invariably most satisfactory. The gathering ground of this Company extends over a large area, all of which is contained within the boundaries of this district. Some pollution of the collecting streams unavoidably occurs, as these streams on their way to the main reservoirs flow through highly cultivated and well manured fields, or through grazing lands with their herds of cattle. At all times, and especially after heavy rains, pollution from these sources must occur and cannot be prevented, but this is not pollution by human beings, and is such as can be dealt with by such up-to-date Waterworks as I believe the Falmouth Company's to be. The possible danger, however, to this water arises from the human habitations upon the collecting area, whether in the form of villages and hamlets, or as isolated farm-houses and cottages. That such a danger exists has long been recognised by this Council, and considerable attention has been paid to the prevention of any possible pollution from such sources. In the rest of the district the villages are either supplied from springs, the water being piped, with stand-pipes at intervals, or there are one or more public pumps in each village. The more rural parts depend for their own private supplies on deep wells, and considerable attention has been, and is being paid to all these to guard against pollution.

Both at Ponsanooth and at Laity Moors, in the parish of St Gluvias, great improvement in the public supplies have been effected and at considerable expense. Steps are being taken to provide a sufficient storage at Trebarvah, to secure the village of Constantine against shortage in times of drought. At Mawnan, the work for a supply to Carlidnack is now in hand, and a long-felt want will thereby be met. This supply in its course will be made available for the eastern side of Mawnan Smith. At Flushing the supply is at present sufficient, owing to the springs being high, but owing to the growth of the village in recent years it has been felt that when the springs subside the present supply will not be sufficient to meet the wants of the inhabitants. Shafts have therefore been sunk in the Kersey and water has been struck; measurements will be taken in June in order to find out if this supply is likely to be sufficient. If so it will then be piped into the big reservoir. I may say that in all these instances, Carlidnack, Trebarvah and Flushing, inquiries have been held by the Ministry of Health at each place.

Rivers and Streams.

Beyond the river in Budock (Penryn) and the stream at Swanvale there is no pollution of any of the rivers of the district. That at Swanvale is receiving attention and will be remedied shortly.

Drainage and Sewage.

Most of the villages have drainage of a kind, dealing with certain parts of the village, the pipes discharging into settling tanks or pits, to be emptied at intervals; or, when it is safe to do so, discharging on a field. The chief drainage work, which is now being actively proceeded with, is that of Swanvale in the parish of Budock. Prior to the adoption of this scheme an inquiry was held by the Ministry of Health. When completed this scheme will take in, beside Swanvale itself, a large number of houses on Penmere Hill and the Tregenver Estate. The question of a main drainage scheme for the village of Constantine as a whole has again arisen. I say "again", because in past years I have more than once advocated such a scheme. It has now been decided to call in an expert engineer to advise this Council upon this matter.

Closet Accomodation.

This district being a rural one, the prevailing type of closet hitherto has been the privy-midden. although this type is less of a danger in rural districts than in urban, every effort, where there are a number of houses congregated together, should be directed towards substituting pails or earth-closets for the old type. Accumulations which now stand in middens for a considerable time to pollute the atmosphere in and near dwellings, forming foci for flies to settle on and to breed upon, infecting neighbouring larders, dairies &c would be abolished.

The good following this doing-away-with cess-pits and adopting pails is well exemplified in Flushing where the pail system has become very general in recent years. In this village in days of old enteric fever &c were practically endemic, whereas for some years now there has not been a single case of the kind in the place. In those parts of the district where houses have been recently built, and especially in the parish of Budock where on the Tregenver Estate, Swanvale &c large numbers have been erected, the water-carriage system is general.

Scavenging.

In each village of the district a man is appointed to scavenge regularly, and to disinfect when required. Disinfectants are also supplied for private use when asked for. In Budock (Penryn) and in Flushing the scavenging was done by contract, but is now done by this Council. For the emptying of sewage tanks, cess-pits &c a sewage pump is used, and is available for any part of the district. For the emptying of privies, ash-pits &c, where such exist, the work is done either by the tenants or by local farmers.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.

There is no offensive trade in this district, except in the Parish of St Gluvias, where there is a gut-cleaning industry. This is so situated that with the exercise of due care and supervision it can be of no offence to anyone.

Schools.

The sanitary condition and water-supply of the schools in this district are good, with one exception, and that is the Girl's School at Constantine.

I have reported to this Council more than once that this school for many reasons is very unsatisfactory, and I think the time has arrived for more suitable premises.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

"Tabular Summary of Sanitary Work".

Total number of visits and inspections.	3530.
House to House Inspections.	29.
Re-Inspections.	32.
Inspection of work in progress.	721.
Interviews with owners, builders &c.	236.
Visits to Slaughter-houses.	984.
. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.	138.
. Factories & Workshops.	62.
. Bakehouses.	51.
. Schools.	22.
. Offensive trades premises.	19.
. Butchers' shops, carts &c.	129.
. re Cases of Infectious Diseases.	
Rooms fumigated and sprayed.	63.
Complaints received and attended to.	173.
Preliminary notices served.	29.
Statutory notices served.	5.
Letters re notices.	19.
Cases of overcrowding.	1.
Wells cleansed.	8.
Plans deposited and approved.	35.
New Houses.	98.

Alterations and additions.	19.
Drains tested, water and smoke.	301.
New pail closets provided or repaired.	32.
Houses re-drained.	12.
Cess-pits cleansed and emptied.	421.
Drains unchoked and repaired.	37.
Public pumps repaired or renewed.	19.

HOUSING.

(1). The general housing conditions of the district are fair. There may be some shortage, but this is not acute. The wonder is that there should be any shortage at all, for look where one will houses and bungalows of one type or another appear to be springing up in all directions. Whilst this applies to the District as a whole, it is in the parish of Budock where by far the great majority of new houses have been erected, and especially at Swanvale and on the Tregenver Estate, where practically new towns have sprung up, where only two or three years ago one could only see green fields.

(2). Overcrowding.

An occasional case of overcrowding comes to notice, and is dealt with as far as it is possible to remedy matters; but the great difficulty, seeing that as a rule in these cases the people are poor, is to obtain a house large enough for their needs, and at the same time of a rental which they can meet.

(3). Fitness of houses.

The general standard of housing in this district is good.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

- (a). Total. 96.
- (b). With State Assistance and the Housing Acts
 - (1). By the Local Authority. nil.
 - (2). By other bodies or persons. 83.

(1). UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

Inspection. (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). 29.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. 29.

(3). Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 29.

(4). Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably unfit for human habitation. nil.

(2) REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. nil.

(3). ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act 1925.

- (1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
notices were served requiring repairs. 19.
- (2). Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered
fit after service of formal notices :-
 - (a). By owners. 19.
 - (b). By Local Authority in default of owners. nil.
- (3). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of
declarations by owners of intention to close. nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
notices were served requiring defects to be
remedied. 10.
- (2). Number of dwelling-houses in which defects
were remedied after service of formal notices :-
 - (a). By owners. 10.
 - (b). By Local Authority in default of owners. nil.

C. Proceedings under section 11, 14 and 15 of the
Housing Act 1925.

- (1). Number of representations made with a view to the
making of Closing Orders. nil.
- (2). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
Closing Orders were made. nil.
- (3). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-
houses having been rendered fit. nil.

- (4). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
Demolition Orders were made. nil.
- (5). Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance
of Demolition Orders. nil.

Milk Supply.

The regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order are in force. The dairies throughout the District are well kept, and show a distinct improvement in many ways upon past years. The quality of the milk produced and its wholesomeness are very good.

All slaughter-houses are inspected weekly and their condition is good.

A periodical inspection is made of all places where food is stored or prepared or exposed for sale, including bakehouses, butchers' shops, carts &c, the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 being adopted and carried out.

The following is a tabular statement of the number of private slaughter-houses in use in the district at the dates mentioned :-

	In 1920.	In January 1925.	In December 1925.
Registered.	7.	10.	18.
Licensed.	--	--	--
	7.	10.	18.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts and Milk and Cream Regulations.

Samples taken and analysed :-

Lard.	1.	
Butter.	1.	All genuine.
Vinegar.	1.	

New Milk 1. 54 per cent added water. Fined 15/-

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Of notifiable infectious diseases since 1920 there have been 22 cases of Diphtheria, 50 of Scarlet Fever, and 2 of Enteric Fever.

The majority of the cases of Diphtheria occurred in 1921, and most of these were in Flushing. Up to within a few years ago there were certain insanitary conditions in this village which favoured the development of such diseases as Diphtheria and Enteric Fever. But of latter years its sanitary condition has greatly improved, with the result that there has not been a case of any of the notifiable infectious diseases for a considerable time.

The cases of Scarlet Fever were more or less scattered, though Mawnan was the chief sufferer. Owing to the absence of any means of Isolation, such as a hospital, the possibility of controlling the spread of such a complaint, when once it appears, is but small. In some cases one can get fair isolation at home, but in the majority of the houses in which cases occur it is useless trying.

The cases of Enteric Fever were of sailors, removed to the Port Sanitary Hospital at Kergilliack. Both cases ended fatally.

The Council supplies Diphtheria antitoxin, as well as other sera, to persons who are not in a position to pay for the same.

The examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens is carried out at the Laboratories for Public Health &c, 6, Harley Street, and at the Council's expense. No use has been made of the Schick test for Diphtheria, or of the Dick test for Scarlet Fever.

Of non-notifiable infectious diseases the chief one that has visited us during the past five years is Influenza, which complaint has been practically an annual ^{visitant} ~~assailant~~, with eight deaths in all.

Other diseases of this class which have appeared every now and then are Measles, Whooping Cough, Mumps &c. When these complaints are about I regularly receive "school intimations" of their presence from the Headmasters of the several schools in the District, and these I find very helpful.

During the past five years there have been 53 deaths from Cancer in this district. Eleven of these were in the Union Infirmary : of these nine were of persons outside our District, so that of people actually belonging to our District there were 44 deaths from Cancer since 1920.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the
Year 1925.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Small Pox.	nil.	---	---
Scarlet Fever.	nil.	---	---
Diphtheria.	nil.	---	---
Enteric Fever.	nil.	---	---
Puerperal Fever.	nil.	---	---
Pneumonia.	nil. 3	---	6- (all forms)
Encephalitis Lethargica.	1.	1.	1.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
<u>Age</u>	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		
<u>Periods.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M. F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M. F.</u>	
0.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	2.	-	-	1.	-	-	-
35.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55.	-	1.	-	-	1.	-	-
65. and upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	2.	1.	-	1.	1.	-	-

CASES.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

<u>Notified.</u>	<u>Treated at Home.</u>	<u>Vision Unimpaired.</u>
2.	2.	2.

I have the honour, Gentlemen, to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES BLAMEY.

May 16th: 1926.

